

## WITNESSES REPORT SILESA ATROCITIES

Tell Shocking Cases of Ill-treatment of Poles by German Soldiers.

### ALLIED BOARD AT WORK

Church Raid and Innocent Men Beaten, Shot and Even Dragged to Death.

By CHRISTOPHER LUMBY.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times Service.

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Sosnowitz, Upper Silesia, Aug. 31 (delayed).—With the arrival of the Entente Commission in Upper Silesia, the most poignant act of the tragedy is closed.

Its presence will have the effect of moderating the policy of hatred and oppression which the Germans have pursued toward the Poles hitherto and will calm the Poles themselves. This result might have been achieved by the same means two months ago.

The commission began its labors Thursday at Gliwice, where it listened to statements of the German officials, mine owners, foremen and workmen with regard to the causes and character of the strike and revolution.

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Innocent Men Dragged by Horses.

Emile Kott of Lepina stated that she saw on August 19 a man named Albert Sikka of the same place arrested by soldiers because he was supposed to have fired on the Germans. She testified to this being taken to a house where he was bound to the stumps of two mounted soldiers. He was then dragged between his horses at a gallop about one kilometer. The witness did not know, first hand, what happened to him subsequently, but afterward she saw his body at a mortuary at Pilsenitz. The arms were dragged out of their sockets and legs were broken and covered with blood. The body had five bullet wounds.

This morning I drove to the small mining town of Lepina and asked the first group of men I saw in the street if they knew a man called Sikka.

"You mean the man who was murdered by the Grouschewski?" they said. In a few minutes a crowd of about twenty persons had gathered around, and from a dozen different mouths I had confirmed the story. John Mooker in particular said that he was told by a soldier that Sikka was taken to a small hut where he was bound to the stumps of the riders of the two horses spurred the riders apart in order to draw Sikka's arms out of their sockets. One stirrup leather, however, broke, and another soldier ran after Sikka and struck him on the head with a rifle butt. Mooker added the detail that Sikka was an old man.

I then proceeded to the village of Rudo, where, according to the first hand evidence of Marie Weyrow, of August 19, a young man named Sikka was shot.

Marie Weyrow, a Polish school teacher, was visited at his house by soldiers. According to Marie Weyrow's story, he was beaten with rifle butts while in bed, then driven downstairs and told: "Run, Polish swine." As he ran he was shot in the back. He fell down, but was dragged up and was told to run again.

This time he took refuge in the house of Pintaro Schwartz. There the soldiers found him and dragged him downstairs by the feet, and behind the house. There they beat him with rifle butts, smashing an eye out, then they shot him, and after he was dead kicked his body.

Body Found Badly Mutilated.

At Ruda this story was confirmed by several persons, and I was taken to see Janas's body, which still was lying in a mortuary. The body was mutilated in the most terrible manner, the left eye beaten out, the nose smashed flat and the arms and body showing great masses of black bruises. Part of the right ear was torn off and the body showed at least three wounds of bullets or bayonets. My informant also agreed that the victim was an innocent man, whose only crime was in the eyes of the soldiers that he was a Pole.

I then went to Hohenlunde, near Beuthen, to investigate the case of a boy named Richard Podara, who, according to the first hand testimony of Franz Golek, was shot and wounded by soldiers, August 18, as he was going home. Podara dropped and lay in a heap, but was immediately fired at. Other persons attempting to help, also were fired at. Podara subsequently died in a hospital. At Hohenlunde I visited the Podara house and found his brother. He showed me where his brother had been hit while climbing a fence. Other witnesses gave evidence that the Germans prevented anybody from assisting him for an hour.

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## DRASTIC CHANGES IN CIVIL SERVICE URGED

Postal Employees Told Federal Board Has Them Under Consideration.

### EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN

Representatives Advise Aiding Party That Will Help Better Conditions.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—Drastic changes in the civil service system to benefit Federal civilian employees are under consideration by the Federal Salary Classification Commission, Edward Keating, secretary of the commission and former Representative from Colorado, today told the convention of the National Federation of Postal Employees assembled here.

"Women who do the same work as men should receive the same pay as men," Mr. Keating said. "We believe in a system of promotion which will lead from the lowest end of the ladder to the highest."

"We also are convinced that civil service employees should not be placed at the mercy of any bureaucratic tyrant, no matter what his position might be. The civilian employee is entitled to a fair hearing before an impartial court if he has a grievance."

Representative O'Connor (La.) warned the postal employees against striking.

"Unless it is a last resort, and the way to win recognition is by the power of the Federation at the polls."

"Don't form a third party," he said. "It would be foolish and would be weakening to your cause. Confine your political activities to the two existing parties and support the one that gives you the kind of legislation you demand. I am a Democrat, but if the Democratic party should manifest hostility toward you and your cause, I may beat the party from the head down."

Representative Nolan (Cal.) also advised against a third party. Speaking of the high cost of living, he said that if the President cannot do the things he promised to do in reducing the cost of living, then the Government, as an employer, must bring up wages to meet the cost of living.

Representative Madden (Ill.) championed the resolution to increase the pay of postal employees \$150 a year. He told the delegates that "it was the best we could get at the present. He said he knew the bill would pass Congress, but did not know what action the President would take when the measure came up for approval."

Service betterments sought by the organization as outlined by Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer, include a higher wage standard, a punitive rate of time and a half for work in excess of eight hours, double time for Sunday and holiday work, unnecessary night work eliminated, Saturday half holidays, thirty day sick leave annually with full pay and indefinite sick leave on half pay, longer vacations, retirement of aged postal workers, creation of a court of appeals for employees and recognition of the postal organizations.

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I had heard of the execution without trial of a fifteen-year-old boy at Tichau. I went to Tichau and visited the parish priest, Kapitzka, who was supposed to have confessed the boy before his execution. Father Kapitzka stated that about 6 o'clock on the evening of the 19th half a dozen soldiers came and asked him to say a few words to the boy, Karl Kiska of Emmanuelsen, who was about to be shot.

The soldiers said that Kiska had been present at the mutilation of the body of a German under officer who had been killed fighting near Emmanuelsen, whose nose and ears the Poles had cut off. Hainstki said that when he heard of the boy's confession and administered the last sacrament he was shivering violently and hardly knew what he was saying. His neck was still in the wound where he had been struck. Kapitzka was not sure whether he was 15 or 16 years old.

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"You mean the man who was murdered by the Grouschewski?" they said. In a few minutes a crowd of about twenty persons had gathered around, and from a dozen different mouths I had confirmed the story. John Mooker in particular said that he was told by a soldier that Sikka was taken to a small hut where he was bound to the stumps of the riders of the two horses spurred the riders apart in order to draw Sikka's arms out of their sockets. One stirrup leather, however, broke, and another soldier ran after Sikka and struck him on the head with a rifle butt. Mooker added the detail that Sikka was an old man.

I then proceeded to the village of Rudo, where, according to the first hand evidence of Marie Weyrow, of August 19, a young man named Sikka was shot.

Marie Weyrow, a Polish school teacher, was visited at his house by soldiers. According to Marie Weyrow's story, he was beaten with rifle butts while in bed, then driven downstairs and told: "Run, Polish swine." As he ran he was shot in the back. He fell down, but was dragged up and was told to run again.